



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor

Mike D. McDaniel
Secretary

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Contact: Rodney Mallett
Telephone: 225.219.3964

STATE REVIEWS OPTIONS AGAINST REFORMULATED GAS

BATON ROUGE -- The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality remains active in its pursuit of other options to avoid or delay the implementation of reformulated gasoline. On Monday, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency declined the state's request for a waiver on the use of reformulated gasoline.

On Tuesday, DEQ Secretary Mike McDaniel said the department was "exploring our options. We're looking to see if reformulated gas may even be a detriment to local air quality."

McDaniel also said he was aware of Baton Rouge's possible suit against the EPA to stop the implementation of the gas. Reformulated gasoline will cost an estimated 10-15 cents more per gallon and DEQ models show there are no air-quality benefits in the five-parish area.

"We have talked with representatives from the city," McDaniel said. "We've provided them with information on reformulated gas and how it will not benefit this area. We've had good communications with the city and with the local marketers."

Reformulated gasoline, also known as RFG, has an oxygenate added to make it burn cleaner. The most common oxygenate additives are ethanol, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) or ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE). The special gas must be at all gas stations in the five-parish of Ascension, Livingston, Iberville, East Baton Rouge and West Baton Rouge parishes by June 23. The majority of stations will use the additive ethanol.